

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 863

By Beck

A RESOLUTION to honor Mike Vrabel on being named the
Associated Press National Football League
Coach of the Year.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in paying tribute to an innovative field general who inspired his team to overcome adversity during a difficult season and secure the top seed in the American Football Conference (AFC); and

WHEREAS, Mike Vrabel, head coach of the Tennessee Titans, made franchise history when he became the first Titans coach to be named the Associated Press (AP) National Football League (NFL) Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Coach Vrabel received thirty-six of the AP panel's fifty total votes in winning this prestigious award, and soon thereafter, he was rewarded with a contract extension by the Titans; and

WHEREAS, Coach Vrabel led Tennessee to a 12-5 regular-season record, their second consecutive AFC South championship, the No. 1 seed in the AFC, and a divisional round berth in the playoffs, despite the Titans losing the services of their star running back for the second half of the season and suffering a rash of injuries among other impactful players; and

WHEREAS, without the services of All-World Derrick Henry, his back-up D'Onta Foreman performed admirably, and the Tennessee defense "Titaned Up" under the calm but steady leadership of Mike Vrabel; and

WHEREAS, from Week 9 of the NFL season, Coach Vrabel led the Titans to a 6-3 record, despite the absence of their two-time Pro Bowler and the team scoring an average of 10 fewer points per game during this stretch; and

WHEREAS, the Titans were truly bitten by the injury bug in 2021; skill-position players missed a total of 112 games, and by the end of the regular season, the Titans had broken an NFL record by utilizing ninety-one different players; and

WHEREAS, this dire situation would have caused many teams to throw in the towel for the season, but Coach Vrabel refused to allow these setbacks to define him or his team, convincing his players to believe in themselves and their teammates and to stay the course despite treacherous waters; and

WHEREAS, Mike Vrabel has yet to post a losing season in his four years as the head coach of the Titans; Tennessee went 9-7 in each of his first two campaigns and earned a berth in the 2019 AFC title game, and since then, his charges have won back-to-back AFC South championships while earning the AFC's top seed this season; and

WHEREAS, Mike Vrabel played collegiate football for The Ohio State University from 1993-1996, and this two-time All-American is still the Buckeyes' career leader in tackles for loss and sacks; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the New England Patriots, he won three Super Bowls and was named All-Pro; after concluding his playing career, he was an assistant coach with the Houston Texans before becoming the head coach of the Titans; and

WHEREAS, Mike Vrabel has most assuredly proven his acumen as an NFL coach, and we are certain that his tenure with the Titans will be a long and fruitful one; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Mike Vrabel on being named the Associated Press National Football League Coach of the Year for the 2021 season, thank him for leading the Titans to success despite numerous obstacles, and wish him all the best as he prepares for the 2022 season.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.